



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Mr. John Farmer, Amherst, New Hampshire. Account of Ministers in New Hampshire. Referred to Publishing Committee.*

Dissolved.

Copied from the minutes of Rev. Dr. Holmes.

JOSEPH MCKEAN,

Recording Secretary.

QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1816.

Jan. 25, 1816. At the stated quarterly meeting, — the members present were, J. Allen, T. M. Harris, L. Hedge, A. Holmes, C. Lowell, J. McKean, J. Pierce, J. Savage, R. Webster, J. Winthrop, and T. L. Winthrop; came in, J. Freeman, J. Homer, J. Quincy, W. D. Peck, A. Bradford, J. Davis, and E. Eliot.

In the absence of the President, Hon. Judge WINTHROP in the chair.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read.

Several communications were made by the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries of letters received, &c., viz. : —

From Andrew R. Giddinge, Pejepscot, Oct. 24, 1815, with an ancient historical memorandum. Referred to Publishing Committee.

From Samuel H. Jenks, Boston, Jan. 6, 1816, with articles presented. Voted thanks.

From Charles Jackson, Boston, Jan. 8, 1816, accepting his election.

From Thomas Morgan, London, Oct. 31, 1815, acknowledging the Society's present of Vols. I. and II., second series.

From Thomas T. Hewson, Philadelphia, Oct. 18, 1815, acknowledging the Society's present of Vols. V. and VI. of the Collections.

George Chalmers, Esq., of London, was nominated by Rev. Dr. Holmes, and Hon. Charles Humphrey Ather-

ton, of Amherst, New Hampshire, was nominated by Mr. McKean, as Corresponding Members. William Tudor, Jr., Esq., Hon. Joseph Story, and Rev. Joshua Huntington were nominated as Resident Members by the Standing Committee.

The following Article was added to the Laws, at the request of the Treasurer, as Article XII. of the first section. The Standing Committee were excused from the commission given them at the last meeting, respecting Article II. of the second section.

ARTICLE XII. — The Treasurer shall not pay any moneys, except in consequence of a vote of the Society, or on voucher of an officer or committee, under whose direction any expense is incurred, conformably to the Laws or Orders of the Society.

Donations : —

MS. Account of Proceedings of Commissioners for settling the River St. Croix.

From Hon. Egbert Benson.

Ancient MS. containing copies of Proceedings of Commissioners, 1664, &c.

From Alden Bradford, Esq.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1816.

April 25. At the stated quarterly meeting, Society's Room, Boston, — the members present were, J. Davis, J. Freeman, T. M. Harris, L. Hedge, J. Homer, C. Lowell, J. McKean, J. Pierce, R. Webster, J. Winthrop, T. L. Winthrop; came in, J. Bartlett, A. Bradford, A. Holmes, A. Dexter, and J. Savage.

In the absence of the President, Hon. Judge WINTHROP took the chair.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read.

Dr. WEBSTER and Rev. Mr. HOMER were appointed to collect the votes, who reported that the following were elected officers and members:—

HON. CHRISTOPHER GORE, LL.D.	PRESIDENT.
JOSEPH McKEAN	RECORDING SECRETARY.
REV. ABIEL HOLMES, D.D.	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
HON. JOSIAH QUINCY	TREASURER.
JAMES SAVAGE, Esq.	LIBRARIAN.
REDFORD WEBSTER, Esq.	CABINET-KEEPER.
HON. JAMES WINTHROP, Esq. } STANDING COMMITTEE.
HON. JOHN DAVIS, Esq. }	
THOMAS L. WINTHROP, Esq. }	
REV. DR. FREEMAN }	
REV. JOHN PIERCE	

GEORGE CHALMERS, Esq., of London, and CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Esq., of Amherst, were elected Corresponding Members. WILLIAM TUDOR, Jr., Esq., Hon. JOSEPH STORY, LL.D., and Rev. JOSHUA HUNTINGTON, were elected Resident Members.

Communications were made from —

Joseph Tilden, Esq., April 25, 1816, resigning his membership. Referred to next meeting.*

Peter S. Du Ponceau, Corresponding Secretary of Historical Committee of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, March 1, 1816. Corresponding Secretary to reply.

Rev. Dr. Holmes, respecting Winthrop's Journal, Part III. Referred to Publishing Committee.†

Mr. John Farmer, Amherst, April 16, 1816, on his account of Billerica.‡

* Mr. Tilden said that his present pursuits were incompatible with his membership, but it would give him great pleasure to have the key of the Society's room left at his house as heretofore. "If it should be thought inconvenient to me," he continued, "I shall be amply compensated by a permission to visit the Library." Mr. Tilden lived at 22 Franklin Place, near the Society's room over the Arch. — Eds.

† Dr. Holmes's communication, respecting the discovery in the Prince Library of the third part or volume of the manuscript history of Governor Winthrop, was published in 2 Collections, IV. 200-202. — Eds.

‡ In his letter Mr. Farmer says he has brought his sketch of Billerica so far

JAMES SAVAGE, Esq., and Rev. CHARLES LOWELL were chosen to contract for and superintend the reprinting of Vol. V. of the Collections.

Leverett Saltonstall, Esq., of Salem, and Rev. Stephen Palmer, of Needham, were nominated by the Standing Committee as Resident Members; and Michael Joy,

to a conclusion as to be able to send it to the Society for publication. He had spent several weeks there in reading the town and church records, and had submitted his manuscript to the perusal of the venerable Dr. Cumings, who had approved of it, and had made several suggestions to him respecting it. For some reason the Society did not print it, and the "History of Billerica" was published at Amherst, New Hampshire, in 1816, in 8vo, thirty-six pages. The manuscript is in the Society's possession.

Mr. Farmer was a distinguished antiquary, and made frequent contributions to the Society's Collections. The following letter was received from him about this time:—

"AMHERST, N. H., August 3, 1816.

"REV. SIR,—I have had it in contemplation to prepare for the Historical Society a communication respecting the seven Narraganset townships, which were granted by the General Court of Massachusetts in 1728 and 1732 to the posterity of those who served in the Narraganset expedition of 1675. The idea was suggested to me upon obtaining the propriety records of one of these towns, which were supposed to have been lost. These records contain many facts which respect these towns collectively, but they have more immediate reference to the township denominated Narraganset No. 3.

"As the grant of these towns was made at a time when pretences were encouraged and even sought after to induce persons to become grantees, it may be supposed that the number would be great. The records state the number of grantees to be eight hundred and forty, so that there were one hundred and twenty persons to every township. The names of the hundred and twenty to whom Narraganset No. 3 was assigned are given in these records. It appears that five of these townships were located in New Hampshire, one in the county of Worcester, Massachusetts, and the other in the county of York, District of Maine. One difficulty in executing my design is respecting the last township. I know not what name it now bears, and one object of this letter is to solicit information on this head. In those records I have obtained, it is said to be situated 'back of Saco and Scarborough.' I find in Mein and Fleeming's Register for 1768 a town called Narraganset No. 4, but this is probably merged in some other name. I would humbly request the favor of you, Sir, to point out any sources of information that may assist me in compiling a memoir of those towns. I have examined Dr. Belknap's 'History of New Hampshire' for information, and was a little surprised that nothing satisfactory respecting the Narraganset townships in this State could be found. I have, by solicitation, lately

Esq., of Stratham Park, England, as a Corresponding Member, by Rev. Jonathan Homer.*

Dissolved.

JOSEPH McKEAN.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

Aug. 27. At the stated quarterly meeting, Society's Room, Boston, — the members present were, E. Clap,

obtained several ancient plans, which I conceive are worthy of preservation. The following are some of them: —

"A Plan of Mrs. Winthrop's Farm, of three thousand acres, to which is annexed a view of the Indian plantation at Wamesit.

"A Plan of Harvard College Farm.

"A Plan of the Church Farm (Cambridge Church), on Shawshin.

"A Plan of Billerica, 1658, — that part west of Concord River.

"A Plan of Colonel Tyng's Farm, of eight hundred and fifty acres, 1660.

"A Plan of Major Willard's Farm.

"A Plan of Charlestown School Farm.

"Several Plans of land on Nashua and Cochecho Rivers.

"A Plan of Quohquinapaskettsahna, 1660.

"These were drawn by Captain Jonathan Danforth, an eminent surveyor.

"I have often troubled you with letters, but having been prompted chiefly by a regard to the interests of your Society, I may hope to receive your candor and patience. I sent those manuscript letters a few weeks since, and hope they have been received. I purpose to send Ligon's 'History of Barbadoes' to the Society, if they have it not in their Library. It is a small folio volume, and contains plates. With respect, I am your obedient servant,

"JNO. FARMER.

"Rev. ABIEL HOLMES, D.D., Cambridge, Mass."

Mr. Farmer subsequently contributed an article on the Narraganset townships to the Society's Collections, printed in Vol. II, third series, pp. 273-279. Narraganset No. 1 is Buxton, in Maine, and No. 4 is Charlestown, in New Hampshire.

The ancient plans drawn by Surveyor Danforth would have considerable interest now, if they could be found. For the location of several of the lots, see Farmer's "History of Billerica," Appendix, Art. I. The long Indian name will be found in a description of a survey, signed by Danforth himself, in Mass. Coll. Rec., Vol. IV. part i. p. 443. — Eps.

* Rev. Peter Whitney, chosen a member in August, 1804, died Feb. 29, 1816. A memoir of him by the Rev. Thaddeus M. Harris is in 2 Collections, Vol. VII. pp. 177, 178. — Eps.

T. M. Harris, J. Davis, J. McKean, J. Pierce, J. Popkin, J. Quincy, W. S. Shaw, R. Webster, T. L. Winthrop; came in, J. Prince, L. Hedge, A. Holmes, J. Savage, and C. Lowell.

Hon. Judge DAVIS took the chair, in the absence of the President.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read, and the following communications received: —

Letter from Rev. John Bartlett, Marblehead, with his historical discourse.*

Letter from Mr. John Farmer, Amherst, with historical documents.†

Letter from Hon. David Humphreys, Boston, respecting F.R.S.S.

Letter from Hon. Joseph Story, of Salem, accepting his election.

Letter from Rev. Thomas Hall, Leghorn, with several ancient MSS.

Letter from Thomas Morgan, London, acknowledging Vols. I. and II., second series.

Rev. Mr. PIERCE and Dr. POPKIN were appointed to collect and report the ballots, who reported that LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, Esq., and Rev. STEPHEN PALMER, of Needham, were elected Resident Members; and

* Mr. Bartlett's letter, on file, is here printed: —

“MARBLEHEAD, August 20th, 1816.

“DEAR SIR, — Will you permit me to enclose to your care a Discourse on the History of the Second Church and Society in Marblehead, with a view to have it placed among similar documents in the Collections of the Historical Society? My wish is to preserve this discourse, if it be worthy of preservation, and I know of no better method (except publishing it, to which I am very averse) than to present it to the Historical Society, if they will condescend to accept it. There is but a partial statement of facts connected with the history of this Church and Society during the last forty years, on account of their relation to persons now living. I have, however, by me a minute history of this Church and Society, to the commencement of 1816, which at some future period may be offered to the Society as an accompaniment to the discourse.

“With sentiments of great respect, I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

“JOHN BARTLETT.

“WILLIAM S. SHAW, Esq.”

EDS.

† The historical documents which Mr. Farmer sent at this time were some old letters, — one each of the Rev. Samuel Whiting, 1682; Samuel Burt, 1715; Jonathan Belcher, 1718; and Henry Flynt, 1736. — EDS.

MICHAEL JOY, Esq., of Stratham Park, England, a Corresponding Member.

Dr. WEBSTER and Mr. SAVAGE were appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts, who attended that service, and reported that they find them correct, and that, on 24th January, there was a balance in his hands of fourteen dollars and twenty-eight cents.

Rev. ROBERT MORRISON, missionary at Canton, in China, was nominated as a Corresponding Member by J. McKean.

Mr. SAVAGE stated that he had proceeded, in consequence of the conversation and wishes of the members at the last meeting, to transcribe the third volume of Winthrop's Journal, and that he had also collated the volume printed at Hartford in 1790 with the original MS.; and exhibited his copy, with numerous and important corrections.*

Voted, unanimously, to present the thanks of the Society to James Savage, Esq., for this great and valuable service.

Voted, That Hon. John Davis, Rev. Dr. Holmes, and J. Savage, be a committee to consider and report on the printing of an entire edition of Winthrop's Journal.†

QUARTERLY MEETING.

Oct. 31. At the stated quarterly meeting, Society's Room, Boston, at three o'clock, — the members pres-

* See Savage's Preface to Winthrop's History of New England. — Eds.

† Mr. John Williams, of Deerfield, who was chosen a member in October, 1798, died July 27, 1816. A memoir of him will be found in this volume at pp. 260-262. — Eds.

ent were, A. Bradford, A. Holmes, J. McKean, J. Pierce, J. Savage, J. Winthrop, T. L. Winthrop; came in, C. Lowell, R. Webster, W. S. Shaw, J. Bartlett, W. Tudor, and W. Tudor, Jr.

Hon. Judge WINTHROP took the chair, in the absence of the President.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read.

A letter was communicated from Rev. Joshua Huntington, declining accepting his election as a member.

A. BRADFORD, Esq., and R. WEBSTER, Esq., were appointed to collect and report the ballots, who reported that Rev. ROBERT MORRISON, of Canton, China, was unanimously elected a Corresponding Member.

Dr. HOLMES, from the Committee on Winthrop's Journal, reported verbally (the Chairman being absent) that they recommend the issuing of proposals for an edition of that Journal entire.

A motion was made by A. BRADFORD, Esq., and seconded by J. McKEAN, that the report be amended by inserting "and that this work form two volumes of the Society's Collections"; to which some members objecting,

J. SAVAGE moved, and, being seconded, it was

Voted, That the whole subject be referred to the next meeting; seven to six.

Rev. Dr. HOLMES, Hon. Judge DAVIS, J. McKEAN, and WILLIAM TUDOR, Jr., were chosen the Publishing Committee to prepare and print the next volume of Collections.

Dissolved.

JOSEPH McKEAN.

[The Society lost one Resident Member by death since the last annual meeting, — John Williams, Esq., of Deerfield, — of whom no notice has hitherto appeared. It is supplied herewith. — EDS.]

Notice of John Williams, Esq., A.M.

John Williams, the son of Major Elijah Williams, and grandson of the Rev. John Williams, the first minister of Deerfield, known as the “redeemed captive,” was born in that town in 1751. He graduated at Harvard College in 1769, in the same class with Theophilus Parsons. His father, who had carried on a large business at Deerfield, which was the *dépôt* of military supplies for northern Hampshire, died in 1771, having previously made over the “store” to two of his children, who carried on the business under the firm of “John & Eunice Williams.” The sister kept the books of the firm, and was the active manager of its affairs, while her brother was trying to establish himself as a lawyer in Salem. On her marriage, in 1773, the partnership was dissolved, previously to which the brother had returned to Deerfield. On the 8th of September, 1774, he brought to the old homestead, as his bride, Miss Elizabeth Orne, of Salem; and about this time he formed a copartnership with Mr. James Upham, and the business at the old place was continued under the firm of “Williams & Upham,” until 1785.

Mr. Williams, or “Esquire Williams,” as he was generally called in after years, engaged in many outside business enterprises. He was the leading spirit in an association called the “Mast Company,” which sold at Hartford and Middletown masts run down the river from Vermont and New Hampshire. He manufactured oak staves for the West India market, to which place he also exported horses, and made occasional ventures of ginseng in the East India trade. He was interested in several mills, which sent large quantities of sawed

lumber down the Connecticut River ; also in making pot and pearl ashes for the general market, and at one time he was largely engaged in barrelling beef. He was one of the foremost men in planning and building the canals at South Hadley and Turner's Falls, and the bridges at Cheapside and Montague, as well as in laying out important highways.

Throughout his life Mr. Williams was active and useful in town affairs, holding many positions of honor and trust. He held intimate relations with the royal Governors of Massachusetts, and letters, now existing, from Governor Wentworth, of New Hampshire, show him to have been his trusted agent. Of course, he was a Tory. In 1781, he was arrested and put under bonds as being unfriendly to the independence of the United States. In May, 1783, he was chosen Representative to the General Court, but was not allowed to take his seat, on account of his political views. Another election was ordered to fill the vacancy for the second session, the Legislature then meeting twice a year ; and, although the parties were almost equally balanced, personal considerations prevailed, and Mr. Williams was again returned, with but one vote against him. This election was held on the 31st of July. In September following, he was indicted by the court at Springfield for taking part with Great Britain in the war ; and when he appeared to take his seat at the second session of the General Court, he was again rejected by a vote of 114 to 78. In April, 1784, he was arraigned for trial on the charge of sedition ; but, pleading the sixth article of the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain, he was released. In May, 1785, he was once more chosen Representative. His case was referred to a committee of the General Court, who reported favorably. He was admitted, and was re-elected until 1788, becoming an influential member of that body.

In 1787, Mr. Williams was chosen Register of Deeds for the Northern Hampshire District. The office was at the old Corner Store, which, like his father, he had made the centre

of all his business operations. He resigned the Registry in 1796. In 1792, he was chosen Presidential Elector. As a Justice of the Peace, "Esquire Williams" had an amount of business hard to realize in these quiet times, when litigation seems to be at its minimum as to quantity, although at its maximum as to expense. Being instrumental in breaking up a large combination of counterfeiters, who were flooding the land with base silver coin, he was presented with a valuable service of silver plate by the banks of Philadelphia. He was one of the most active in establishing Deerfield Academy, contributing generously of his means, and at his death he left the bulk of his estate as a fund for that institution. He died on the 27th of July, 1816, leaving no children. His second wife, Eunice Woodbridge, whom he married in December, 1802, survived him. He was elected a member of this Society on the 30th of October, 1798.*

QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1817.

Jan. 30, 1817. At the stated quarterly meeting, Society's Room, Boston, at three o'clock, — the members present were, A. Bradford, E. Clap, J. Coolidge, E. Eliot, J. Freeman, C. Gannett, L. Hedge, A. Holmes, J. McKean, S. Palmer, J. Quincy, L. Saltonstall, R. Webster, J. Winthrop, T. L. Winthrop, J. Savage; came in, W. Peck, A. Dexter, and C. Lowell.

Hon. Judge WINTHROP took the chair, in the absence of the President.

* The above notice of Mr. Williams is taken, almost *verbatim et literatim*, from an interesting sketch of the "old Parson Williams homestead and its occupants," at Deerfield, published in the Greenfield "Gazette and Courier," of Aug. 6, 1877, written by the Hon. George Shelden, of Deerfield. — EDS.